

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04172 240800Z

11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

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SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 OIC-04 DRC-01 /228 W

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, YO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MEAT

REFS : A. STATE 181890 B. BELGRADE 4036 (NOTAL) C. EC BRUSSELS 6371

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM REFTEL B, AND OTHER
SOURCES, EC RESTRICTIONS ON BEEF IMPORTS HAVE SUB-
JECTED YUGOSLAV BEEF INDUSTRY TO CONSIDERABLE STRAIN, AND
HAVE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED YUGOSLAV EXPORT EARNINGS

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04172 240800Z

AT TIME WHEN THEIR BALANCE OF APYMENTS ALREADY

UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE BECAUSE OF GENERAL PRICE RISES
OF IMPORTED COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY OIL.

2. AS CONSEQUENCE, YUGOSLAVS PROBABLY WOULD BE
ANXIOUS PARTICIPATE IN MEETING. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL C
THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL SHORTLY BE INVOKING ITS ARTICLE 22
GATT RIGHTS. WE DOUBT IF THEY WOULD REGARD AVAILABILITY
OF GATT CHANNELS TO DEAL WITH THEIR BILATERAL EC PROBLEM
AS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR THEIR EXCLUSION FROM MEETING,
SINCE OTHER PARTICIPANTS HAVE SIMILAR GATT
OPPORTUNITY, WHICH AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA WILL UTILIZE.
MOREOVER, PURPOSE OF MEETING SEEMS FAR BROADER IN
SCOPE THAN NORMAL BILATERAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS UNDER
GATT AUSPICES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FULLY REASONS FOR NEED TO RESTRICT
SIZE OF MEETING. WE NOT IN POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER
ADDITION OF YUGOSLAVIA WOULD OPEN FLOODGATES AND RESULT
IN UNWIELDLY AND THEREFORE INEFFECTIVE MEETING. HOW-
EVER, WE BELIEVE THAT YUGOSLAV POSITIONS AND OBJECTIVES,
WITH ONE CAVEAT, LIKELY TO PARALLEL OR COMPLEMENT
POTENTIAL U.S. STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES OUTLINED PARA 5,
REFTEL A. YUGOSLAVS, IF THEY ATTEND MEETING, LIKELY STRESS
IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS BEFORE INITIATION
OF MEASURES AFFECTING ATRADE, AND LIKELY TO PRESS
STRONGLY FOR TRADE EXPANDING MEASURES. CAVEAT WOULD
BE POSSIBILITY THAT YUGOSLAVS MIGHT SUPPORT CREATION
INTERNATIONAL BODY ON MEAT WITH MORE LDC PARTICIPATION
THAT WE MIGHT FIND DESIRABLE.

4. WE ALSO SEE IMPORTANT POLITICAL ADVANTAGES
TO U.S. IN INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA. LATTER'S STATUS
AS LEADER OF NON ALIGNED COUNTRIES, WOULD
MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BEING PORTRAYED AND
MISREPRESENTED TO REST OF WORLD AS YET ANOTHER RICH MAN'S
CLUB.

5. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION IN
MEETING WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND WOULD URGE U.S. EFFORTS
IN THAT DIRECTION.
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PAGE 03 BELGRA 04172 240800Z

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